

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th May 2022 at 7pm in Alderton Village Hall

Present

Dr Sheona Beaumont – Parish Clerk (SB)
Mr Richard McCraith (RMC)
Mr Nigel Neale (NN)
Mr John Buckley (JB)
Ms Sue Godwin (SG)
Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Mr Martin Smith – Wiltshire Councillor
Juliet Evans PCSO (Malmesbury Rural)
Mo Beasley PCSO (Cricklade & Purston)

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Parish Councillors to choose and vote in a new Chair and Vice Chair

NN proposed that RM be Chair again for the year. JB seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

RM proposed that NN be Vice Chair again for the year. NJG seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

3. Clerk handed meeting over to Richard McCraith

4. Chair and Vice Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

5. Declarations of interest.

There were none.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th of May 2021

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 13th May 2021

There were no matters brought forward.

8. Annual Report by the 2021/2022 Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Richard McCraith

I would like to start by thanking all the Councillors for their support throughout the year and all the help they have given. We had Covid restrictions at the start of the year and held meetings by Zoom for a few months.

We continue to look after grass cutting, the cemetery and offer general village support on a number of subjects. We did not have any major planning in the year. We have established the ownership of the cemetery in a more formal way.

We have had an excellent Clerk throughout this year and increased the pay grade that Sheona was on due to the amount of extra work/responsibility that is required with the job. She has done a lot of work with the cemetery to get all the bookwork correct.

We have had more expenditure during this year by introducing a new grass cutting contract and by increasing the Clerk's salary and paying for her training courses. This has been offset in part by the fact we have not made any donations this year. For next year we will be spending about what we get in, leaving not much for reserves. Our finances have remained healthy overall and we have approximately £15,000 in our accounts after the year end. We increased the precept by 3% for 22-23.

We have had only 5 Councillors this year which does suit the way things are run. We are, however, allowed 7 people in total so we are always open to new blood. We also remain open to helping the community with grants where we can, and welcome applications that meet our criteria.

I'd like to thank Tim Guard for sending out communications, and I would like to thank Nigel for being Vice Chair. And of course Sheona for all her hard work and support.

9. Other Parish Business

PCSOs were invited to speak. They reported more Community Speed Watch staffing, with speed enforcement officers monitoring hot spots too, with immediate means for fines + 3 police officers joining it (part of County-wide initiative). No further information on crime spate of shed break-ins in Sherston, appeal to keep eyes and ears open especially around oil tanks. **Wiltshire Police online reporting for non-emergency (<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/>) or phone 101.** They also reported that Neighbourhood community messaging is being updated, with PCSOs receiving training in using it.

Meeting finished at 7.30pm

Sheona Beaumont - Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council